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**First Week
Current Affairs**

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Winmeen Current Affairs**1. Where is the headquarters of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)?**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi**
- C. Kochi
- D. Ahmedabad

- ✓ Recently, National drug pricing regulator NPPA has fixed the retail prices of 36 formulations, including those used for treatment of cancer, diabetes, infections, asthma, seizures, inflammation and pain, among others. As per data available with NPPA, the MRP for 105 brands will be reduced up to 85% entailing minimum saving of Rs 105 crore to consumers.
- ✓ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO. So far, around 1000 drugs have been brought under price control under the initiative. It also monitors annual price increase for these and the non-scheduled drugs. It also administers Pharma Sahi Dam and Pharma Jan Samadhan platforms for information on medicine prices and registering public grievances. The headquarters of NPPA is located in New Delhi.

2. What is the theme of the 2019 National Science Day (NSD)?

- A. Science for the People and the People for Science**
- B. Science for Nation Building
- C. Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
- D. Science and Technology for Specially-abled Persons
- ✓ The National Science Day (NSD) is observed every year on 28th of February to mark the discovery of Raman effect by Physicist C V Raman on 28th February, 1928. For his discovery, Sir CV Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.
- ✓ In honour of this discovery and as a mark of tribute to the scientist, National Science Day was marked for the first time on February 28, 1987. The purpose

of the day is to spread the message of importance of science and its application among the people.

- ✓ This year, the theme for the 2019 NSD is, 'Science for the People and the People for Science'. The Raman Effect is the inelastic scattering of a photon by molecules which are excited to higher energy levels. It forms the basis for Raman spectroscopy which is used by chemists and physicists to gain information about materials.

3. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of National Book Trust (NBT)?

- A. Govind Prasad Sharma**
- B. Mrinal Mitra
- C. Jagdish Joshi
- D. Suddhasattwa Basu

- ✓ The National Book Trust (NBT) has appointed educationist and author Govind Prasad Sharma as its new Chairman. Born in 1939, Sharma has served as the Principal of Government P.G. College, Madhya Pradesh. Later, he was appointed as the Additional Director of Higher Education (Gwalior Chambal Division) and has also been the Director of Madhya Pradesh Hindi Granth Akademi. He is the author of more than six academic books and several research papers, and has edited a few collected works.
- ✓ NBT is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Higher Education of Union Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD). The activities of the Trust include publishing, promotion of books and reading, promotion of Indian books abroad, assistance to authors and publishers, and promotion of children's literature.

4. Which of the following cricketers has officially received the knighthood at Buckingham Palace?

- A. Andrew Strauss
- B. Alastair Cook**
- C. Kevin Pietersen
- D. Andrew Flintoff
- ✓ On Feb 26, the former England opener Alastair Cook has officially received the knighthood for his

services to cricket by the Queen in an official ceremony at the Buckingham Palace. He is the first English cricketer to get the honour since Sir Ian Botham in 2007.

- ✓ Overall, Cook is the 11th Englishman to be knighted for services to cricket. Cook, who made his Test debut in 2006 against India, captained England for a record 59 Test matches and led the country to 24 wins in the longest format of the game. He has appeared in a total of 160 Tests for the national side. He retired from the Test cricket following the five-match series against India in September 2018.

5. Which of the following schemes has been launched by Union HRD ministry for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities?

- A. Param
- B. Shreyas
- C. Pariksha
- D. AdityaIn

- ✓ New Delhi, the Minister for Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar has launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- ✓ The aim of the program is to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing 'on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend. SHREYAS is a programme basket comprising the initiatives of three central ministries, including the HRD, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

6. Chagos Islands, sometimes seen in news, is the bone of contention between which of the following countries?

- A. UK & Mauritius
- B. United States & Indonesia
- C. Japan & China
- D. South Korea & North Korea

- ✓ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague ruled that the United Kingdom must transfer the Chagos Islands (Diego Garcia) to Mauritius as they were not legally separated from the latter in 1965. It has ruled that continued British occupation of the remote Indian Ocean archipelago is illegal.
- ✓ In a non-binding opinion issued on 25th Feb 2019, the ICJ ruling deals a humiliating blow to the legitimacy of Britain's territorial claim over the Chagos islands, which they call the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). The ruling is not legally binding.
- ✓ It must be noted that UK retained possession of the Chagos archipelago, which includes the strategic US airbase of Diego Garcia, after Mauritius gained its independence in 1968 & effectively paying Mauritius more than £4m for the islands. About 1,500 native islanders were deported so the largest island could be leased to the US for the airbase in 1971. They have never been allowed to return home.

7. What is the India's rank in The Facebook Inclusive Internet Index (3i) 2019?

- A. 54th
- B. 47th
- C. 68th
- D. 36th

- ✓ India has been ranked 47th out of 100 countries in the Inclusive Internet Index (3i) 2019, which is prepared by the 'Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.
- ✓ The list is topped by Sweden, followed by Singapore and the US. As per index, there are demonstrable benefits from comprehensive female e-inclusion policies, digital skills programmes and targets for women and girls to Study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- ✓ This year, the index represented 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP. The study revealed stalled progress on closing the digital divide.

8. Who is the recipient of the 2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award?

A. Mahesh Elkunchwar

B. Vijaya Mehta

C. Girish Karnard

D. Arun Kakade

✓ Eminent Indian playwright Mahesh Elkunchwar has been chosen for the 2019 META Lifetime Achievement Award. He will be conferred upon with the award on March 12, along with the winners of the 14th Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) festival.

✓ Elkunchwar is critically-acclaimed and widely-known for having experimented with a wide range of drama and is considered a powerful force in both Indian and Marathi theatre scene.

✓ He has over 30 plays and essays to his credit including works like 'Sultan', 'Holi', 'Garbo', 'Yatanagar', and 'Atmakatha'. His 1985 play 'Wada Chirebandi' (Old Stone Mansion) has been staged in Marathi, Hindi and Bengali, besides being adapted for television.

9. Who has become the first Indian cricketer to cross 8,000 runs in T20s?

A. Rohit Sharma

B. Virat Kohli

C. Suresh Raina

D. MS Dhoni

✓ Suresh Raina has become the first Indian batsman to cross 8000 runs in T20 cricket. He achieved this feat when he scored 12 runs against Puducherry in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at Delhi on Feb 25.

✓ With those 12 runs, Raina has now scored 8,001 from 300 T20s which consisted of 284 innings. It was incidentally his 300th T20.

✓ Beside this, Raina is the second Indian after MS Dhoni to have played 300 T20 matches. Apart from Raina, Virat Kohli (7833) and Rohit Sharma (7795) are the only other batsmen in the top 10 list of the highest run-getters in T20 cricket. Overall, Raina is the sixth highest with David Warner (8111 runs),

Shoaib Malik (8603), Kieron Pollard (8839), Brendon McCullum (9922) and Chris Gayle (12,298).

10. The National Institutes of Design (NID) has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

A. Lucknow & Bhubaneshwar

B. Bhopal & Jorhat

C. Jaipur & Shimla

D. Raipur & Hyderabad

✓ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated National Institutes of Design (NID) at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Jorhat in Assam through video conference from New Delhi on 22nd February 2019.

✓ Both institutes are autonomous institutions under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

✓ The establishment of new NIDs will help produce highly skilled manpower in design which, in turn, will create job opportunities, both direct and indirect, by providing sustainable design interventions for crafts, handloom, rural technology, small, medium and large-scale enterprises and outreach programs for capacity, capability and institution building.

✓ The National Design Policy 2007 had recommended setting up design institutes on the lines of NID Ahmedabad in other parts of India to promote design programs. Four new NIDs have been set up in Andhra Pradesh (Amaravati), Assam (Jorhat), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Haryana (Kurukshetra) with a total outlay of Rs. 434 crore.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Who has been conferred the Genome Valley Excellence Award at the BioAsia 2019?

- A. Jayesh Ranjan
 - B. Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
 - C. Don Cleveland**
 - D. Peter Lee
- ✓ The 16th edition of BioAsia was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre at Madhapur from February 25 to 27 2019. It is the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana and is focused on healthcare being re-imagined as a result of technological disruption.
 - ✓ Over 1,500 delegates from more than 50 countries participated in the Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life-sciences forum, which was organized with the theme "Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption". In it, the Genome Valley Excellence Award 2019 was presented to Dr. Don W Cleveland of the University of California for his work in cancer genetics.

2. Which state government has launched 'Banglar Shiksha' portal to provide real-time data on schools?

- A. West Bengal**
 - B. Karnataka
 - C. Tripura
 - D. Nagaland
- ✓ The West Bengal government has launched 'Banglar Shiksha' portal to provide real-time data on state-run and aided schools. The portal, "Banglar Shiksha" (banglarshiksha.gov.in), will store real-time data of 1.5 crore students, 5 lakh teachers and 1 lakh schools.
 - ✓ It will be operated on a trial basis for two months to remove glitches, if any and will be fully functional by 1st May 2019. The system will enable the headmaster and class teacher to access the academic performance of a student. Parents, too, can access the information by downloading the Banglar Shiksha app.

3. What is the theme of the News18 Rising India Summit 2019?

- A. Beyond Politics: Fight for Right
 - B. Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities**
 - C. Beyond Politics: Stand up Against Terrorism
 - D. Beyond Politics: Define Your Goal
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed the Network-18 Rising India Summit 2019 in New Delhi and laid out his vision for a 'New India'. The theme of the summit was, 'Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities'.
 - ✓ The summit is a News18 Network enterprise where newsmakers from the world of politics, governance, economics, sports and entertainment, and above all well-wishers of India, gather to discuss the country's rising global stature. It is a showcase of India's unbounded potential as well as a celebration of its significant achievements.

4. Which state has become the first state in India to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the government sector?

- A. Odisha
 - B. Uttar Pradesh
 - C. Tamil Nadu**
 - D. Kerala
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has become the first State in India to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the government sector to spread awareness on newer heart valve treatments without open surgery. TAVI was launched at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate, in November 2018.
 - ✓ With the help of TAVI, two persons have undergone the procedure free of cost. Conventionally, an open heart surgery is performed for replacing the aortic valve for treating aortic stenosis. But not all patients such as the elderly are fit to undergo open heart surgery.
 - ✓ This is where TAVI helps as in this procedure the valve is replaced through a keyhole procedure from

the groin. The procedure costs Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh in the private sector, while it is done free in the government sector.

5. Southern Coast Railway (SCoR), which is in news recently, will be headquartered at which of the following cities?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Amravati
- D. Kochi

✓ Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has recently announced a new railway zone of the Indian Railways, named as Southern Coast Railway (SCoR). This new 18th railway zone of the country will be headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway (SCR).
- ✓ The cost of creating infrastructure for a new zone is more than Rs. 205 crore. The Indian Railways' operations are currently divided into 17 zones, which are further sub-divided into divisions, each having a divisional headquarter. There are a total of 73 divisions at present.

6. Which state government has launched a major water conservation scheme "Jalamrutha"?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Assam
- C. Karnataka
- D. Mizoram

✓ Karnataka has launched a major water conservation scheme titled 'Jalamrutha', which focusses on drought-proofing measures, including protection and rejuvenation of water bodies. The state the largest swathe of drought-prone land in the country next only to Rajasthan.

- ✓ 'Jalamrutha' will deploy scientific approaches to water budgeting, water harvesting and water conservation through the use of geospatial data,

satellite imagery, topographical and geological data.

- ✓ It will be a community driven movement, which will be implemented by key line departments of the government, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and private sector institutions. Water conservation strategy under this scheme comprises four components of water literacy, rejuvenation of waterbodies, creation of new waterbodies as well as development of watersheds and afforestation activities.
- ✓ It will operate on a four-tier institutional structure with planning and execution committees being set up at village, taluk, district and State levels.

7. Which state government has declared 2019 as the 'Year of Water'?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Maharashtra

✓ In Bengaluru, the Government of Karnataka has declared 2019 as the 'Year of Water (or Jalavarsha)' to emphasise the importance of water becoming a scarce commodity and the need to conserve it. The declaration will apply to all government departments.

- ✓ This initiative is expected to spread water literacy, focus on conservation, promotion of smart water usage and encourage green initiatives. A sum of Rs 500 crore and an additional `100 crore has been granted to implement the initiative, under which, over 14,000 water bodies across the state will be rejuvenated over the next two years.
- ✓ Under this movement, various activities and campaigns related to water conservation, protection and rejuvenation of waterbodies will be taken up through government departments; educational institutions and NGOs.

8. The Centre for Disability Sports will come up in which of the following cities?

- A. Bikaner
- B. Dehradun
- C. Pune

D. Gwalior

- ✓ The Union cabinet has recently approved a proposal for setting up the Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh to benefit para-sports in the country. The centre will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 170.99 crore over a period of five years & will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ✓ The centre will have a Governing Body comprising a maximum of 12 members, some of them experts from "National Level Sports Federations apart from experts in para games".
- ✓ The Section 30 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, requires the government to take measures to ensure "effective participation of Persons with Disabilities in sports activities which includes the provision of infrastructural facilities for sports activities for them".
- ✓ The upcoming centre was proposed in the budget of 2014-15. At present, no specialized sports training facilities for Divyangjan are available in the Country. Hence, this void is proposed to be filled up by setting up sports infrastructure so that persons with disabilities (Divyangjan) can undergo rigorous and specialized training in this Centre.

9. Which country is the venue of the 7th RCEP Inter-Sessional Ministerial Meeting?

- A. India
- B. Singapore
- C. Cambodia**
- D. Indonesia

- ✓ The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Intersessional Ministerial Meeting (7th RCEP ISSL MM) will be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 2nd March 2019.
- ✓ The aim of the 16-member RCEP is to cover issues related to goods, services, investments, economic

and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights. From India, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu will attend the meeting.

- ✓ The RCEP is a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 16 countries namely 10 countries of ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and their six FTA partners (also known as AFP's or ASEAN FTA Partners) namely Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand.

10. The Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 has recently conducted between India and which country?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Bangladesh**
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. China

- ✓ In Tripura, the joint border guarding exercise "Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019" was held between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) as a part of 'Confidence Building Measures' between the two border guards.
- ✓ The exercise was named after the Mainamati hill range situated 8 km west of Comilla township in Bangladesh, which is home to an ancient Buddhist archaeological site in the region. The main purpose of this exercise was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations with an aim of achieving better joint operational efficiency and border management in the area.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. The Supreme Court has recently pulled up which government to an act which allows construction in Aravalli hills?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana**
- D. Punjab

- ✓ On 1st of March 2019, the Supreme Court pulled up the Haryana government for passing amendments to an act which allows construction in the ecologically-sensitive Aravalli hills.
- ✓ A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta stated that the step will destroy the forest and it cannot be permitted. Terming the move as shocking, the bench asked the state not to take any further action on the law. It said that the Haryana government has taken the step despite the apex court's directive in this regard.
- ✓ On 27th Feb 2019, the state assembly had passed an amendment to the centuries-old Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900 (PLPA) Act & opened up thousands of acres of land for real estate developers and for mining in the Aravallis and Shivalik ranges.
- ✓ The decision meant it would not only burden the already ecologically-fragile system, but would also pose a major environmental and ecological threat to the national capital region.

2. Which Indian sprinter has won the 10 km race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun held in Kathmandu?

- A. Shashank Shekhar**
- B. Anand Shetty
- C. Dharambir Singh
- D. RD Murgan

- ✓ India's Shashank Shekhar has won the 10 kilometre race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun held in Kathmandu. Shekhar of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Contingent at Embassy of India in Kathmandu secured first position.

- ✓ RD Murgan also from CISF got third place. A total nine CISF personnel participated in 10 KM race category. The remaining seven personnel also successfully completed run and received Certificate of Achievement. COAS Open Marathon and Run for Fun is an annual event organised by the Nepal Army.

3. RBI have signed a \$75 billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) with which country's central Bank?

- A. South Korea
- B. Japan**
- C. Israel
- D. Indonesia

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Bank of Japan (BOJ) have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) for \$75 billion that will help in bringing greater stability in foreign exchange and capital markets in the country.
- ✓ The pact will enables both countries to swap their local currencies (i.e., either Japanese yen or Indian rupee) against US dollar for up to \$75 billion.
- ✓ The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo on October 29, 2018. With this, India can access the agreed amount of \$75 billion for its domestic currency, for the purpose of maintaining an appropriate level of balance of payments or short-term liquidity.

4. Who has become the first-ever player to smash 500 sixes in international cricket?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Jos Buttler
- C. Chris Gayle**
- D. Eoin Morgan

- ✓ West Indies opener Chris Gayle has become the first-ever player to smash 500 sixes in international cricket. He achieved this feat in the ongoing 5-match One Day International (ODI) series against England

at National Cricket Stadium in Grenada, West Indies on 27 February.

- ✓ However, Gayle's fireworks weren't enough to help his team cross the line as West Indies were bowled out for 389. They fell 29 runs short of England's 418/6, scored courtesy Jos Buttler's 150 and Eoin Morgan's 103 as well as half-centuries by Jonny Bairstow and Alex Hales.
- ✓ Earlier in the ongoing series, he had toppled Shahid Afridi to record the most number of sixes by any batsman in international cricket. Gayle, who will retire from ODIs after the 2019 Cricket World Cup, now has 506 sixes in international cricket (98 in Tests, 305 in ODIs and 103 in T20Is). He also breached 10,000-run mark in ODIs and become only the 2nd from West Indies after Brian Lara (10,405 runs) to achieve the milestone.

5. What is the theme of the 2019 Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD)?

- A. Live Up
- B. Speak loud for justice
- C. Act to change laws that Discriminate**
- D. A society free of discrimination
- ✓ The Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD) is observed every year on 1st of March to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
- ✓ The days aims to tell people that nobody should be differentiated based on their HIV status, age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, language, geographical location or migrant status. The 2019 campaign 'Act to change laws that Discriminate' challenges people to act against laws that discriminate in their country.
- ✓ The campaign encourages people to ask themselves "What if ..." and to think about their own actions. For example: 'What if your neighbour had tuberculosis? Would you stop to chat?'

6. The Ministry of Textile has launched a programme for developing knitwear sector under which scheme?

- A. PowerJet India
- B. PowerMax India
- C. PowerTex India**
- D. PowerMat India
- ✓ On Feb 28, Union Minister for Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani launched a comprehensive programme for the development of knitting and knitwear sector in the country under the PowerTex India scheme in New Delhi. The total outlay for the knitwear scheme is Rs. 47.72 crore & would be in operation till March 31, 2020.
- ✓ The programme for knitting and knitwear units, catering to domestic and exports markets, has 8 components where the industries would get support to install machinery under group work shed scheme, buy yarn, go in for solar energy, have common facilities and create new service centres under public private partnership mode.
- ✓ The scheme envisages creation of new service centres on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model by industry and association in the knitting and knitwear clusters. Some of the major knitwear clusters in the country are Tiruppur, Ludhiana, Kanpur, and Kolkata.

7. Which of the following banks has been ranked first among public sector banks in the implementation of reforms agenda, as per latest BCG-IBA report?

- A. OBC
- B. SBI
- C. PNB**
- D. BoB
- ✓ The BCG-IBA report titled 'EASE Reforms for Public Sector Banks' has measured the performance of each Public Sector Bank (PSB) on 140 objective metrics across six themes, including customer responsiveness, credit off-take, and digitization.
- ✓ As per report, the Punjab National Bank (PNB) with a score of 78.4 out of 100 has been ranked first in the EASE (Enhanced Access & Service Excellence) index, followed by BoB (77.8), SBI (74.6), Oriental Bank of

Commerce (69), Canara Bank (67.5) and Syndicate Bank (67.1).

- ✓ PNB has shown strong performance in parameters such as customer responsiveness, responsible banking, credit off-take and financial inclusion.

8. Lignocellulosic biomass, sometimes seen in news, is composed of __?

- A. Cellulose
- B. Hemicellulose
- C. Lignin
- D. All of the above**

- ✓ The Lignocellulosic biomass (or LC biomass) refers to plant biomass that is composed of carbohydrate polymers (cellulose, hemicellulose), and an aromatic polymer (lignin).
- ✓ It is the most abundantly available raw material on the Earth for the production of biofuels, mainly bio-ethanol. It is in news recently because the Union Cabinet has approved the "Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana" for providing financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- ✓ It has been launched as a tool to create 2G Ethanol capacity in the country and attract investments in this new sector. The scheme focuses to incentivize 2G Ethanol sector and support this nascent industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.
- ✓ The ethanol produced by the scheme beneficiaries will be mandatorily supplied to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to further enhance the blending percentage under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. The JI-VAN Yojana will be supported with total financial outlay of Rs.1969.50 crore for the period from 2018-19 to 2023-24.

9. Who is the head of the RBI task force on offshore rupee markets?

- A. Usha Thorat**

- B. N S Vishwanathan
- C. Mahesh Kumar Jain
- D. Viral Acharya

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted an 8-member task force headed by its former deputy governor Usha Thorat to examine issues related to offshore rupee markets and recommend policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the domestic currency.
- ✓ The task force will assess the causes behind the development of the offshore rupee market and study the effects of the offshore markets on the rupee exchange rate and market liquidity in the domestic market.
- ✓ It would also recommend measures to address concerns, if any, arising out of offshore rupee trading besides proposing measures to generate incentives for non-residents to access the domestic market. The panel would submit its report by the end of June 2019.

10. Which scheme has been launched by Union HRD ministry to fund science projects?

- A. SITAR
- B. STARE
- C. STARK
- D. STARS**

- ✓ On the occasion of National Science Day (NSD-2019), the Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, Prakash Javadekar launched Rs 250 Crore scheme 'STARS' to fund 500 science projects. The selection of these projects would be done on the basis of competitions.
- ✓ The project will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. Interested candidates will have to submit applications to take part in the competition. The applications will release on the first week of April 2019. The acronym of STARS stands for "Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research".
- ✓ Beside this, the HRD Ministry in collaboration with the National Skill Ministry and Labour and

employment Ministry collaboratively launched SHREYAS – Scheme for Higher Education Youth for Apprenticeship and Skills to empower non-technical courses.

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1. Indo-Bangladesh joint military exercise 'Sampriti-2019' has started in which of the following locations?

- A. Tangail
- B. Hooghly
- C. Barguna
- D. Sylhet

- ✓ The 8th edition of joint military exercise 'Sampriti-2019' between the armies of India and Bangladesh has recently started at Bongobondhu Cantonment in Tangail, Bangladesh. The aim of the 14-day exercise is to increase mutual cooperation, bonhomie and camaraderie between the armies of two countries.
- ✓ The exercise is a part of the ongoing India-Bangladesh defence cooperation. The Bangladesh contingent was represented by 36 East Bengal Battalion, while Indian side was represented by 9th Battalion of the Rajputana Rifles.

2. Which country has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem?

- A. Russia
- B. United States
- C. Japan
- D. China

- ✓ The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem & downgraded the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to Israel. For decades, the consulate functioned as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians.
- ✓ Now, that outreach will be handled by a Palestinian affairs unit, under the command of the embassy. The symbolic shift hands authority over U.S. diplomatic channels with the West Bank and Gaza to Ambassador David Friedman, a longtime supporter and fundraiser for the West Bank settler movement and fierce critic of the Palestinian leadership.

- ✓ The downgrade is the latest in a string of divisive decisions by the Trump administration that have backed Israel and alienated the Palestinians, who say they have lost faith in the US administration's role as a neutral arbiter in peace process.

3. Which Indian wrestler has clinched gold in 65kg freestyle at the Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament in Bulgaria?

- A. Yogeshwar Dutt
- B. Sandeep Tomar
- C. Bajrang Punia
- D. Pawan Kumar

- ✓ Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia has won a gold medal in 65 kilogram freestyle at the Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament in Ruse, Bulgaria.
- ✓ He beat American Jordan Oliver 12-3 in the final & also secured the maximum ranking points from the tournament. This was Punia's 10th medal in as many international tournaments since the 2017 World Championships in Paris.
- ✓ Earlier, Pooja Dhanda claimed gold in women's 59 kg while Sarita Mor won a silver in the same weight category. Sakshi Malik won silver in 65 kg women's freestyle. In the men's freestyle events, Sandeep Tomar claimed silver in 61kg.

4. Who is the author of the book "Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way" ?

- A. Kamlesh Patel
- B. Bikram Choudhury
- C. Rajashree Choudhury
- D. Arunava Sinha

- ✓ The book titled "Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way" has been authored by Spiritual teacher Kamlesh Patel, who is popularly known as Daaji. He addressed key issues related to destiny and how it shapes one's life in his new book.
- ✓ The author provides practical wisdom on how to use heartfulness practices to refine lifestyle and design destiny, including destiny in the afterlife. He elaborates on the subject of consciousness, the role

of evolution, and explains what happens to people at the time of birth and death - and how people can act in those pivotal moments when life takes a turn.

- ✓ In the book, Daaji shares how beliefs determine the relative importance of fate and free will in people's lives. He also shares a set of simple heartfulness practices and lifestyle changes that can help people design their destiny. The author also explores the meditative practices in the light of destiny besides fundamental aspects of well-being, like healthy sleep patterns, heartfelt communication, eating patterns, living in tune with natural cycles and so on.

5. Kalashnikov rifle, sometimes seen in news, is associated with which country?

- A. United States
- B. Israel
- C. France
- D. Russia**

- ✓ On March 3, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated an Indo-Russian joint venture (JV) that will manufacture the new 7.62x39 mm caliber Kalashnikov AK-203 rifle in Korwa near Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. The Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between India's Ordnance factory and a Russian firm.
- ✓ It will produce the last series of Kalashnikov rifles in the Korwa Ordnance Factory. AK 203 is the latest derivative of the legendary AK-47 rifle. According to officials, the AK 203 would replace the existing India-made INSAS assault rifles in the Army, Air Force and Navy. It is to be noted that Amethi is the parliamentary constituency of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

6. Who is the newly elected President of Senegal?

- A. Madicke Niang
- B. Macky Sall**
- C. Idrissa Seck
- D. Ousmane Sonko

- ✓ Macky Sall has been re-elected for a second term as President of Senegal with a 58% majority in the first round voting in February 2019 Senegalese presidential election. The President of Senegal is elected using the two-round system; a candidate must receive over 50% of the vote to be elected in the first round.
- ✓ If no candidate crosses the threshold, a second round will be held with the top two candidates. According to the 2001 Constitution of Senegal, the president is elected for a 5-year term.

7. The Government of India (GoI) has recently declared which of the following time periods as the Year of construction technology?

- A. 2020-2021
- B. 2021-2022
- C. 2022-2023
- D. 2019-2020**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently addressed the Construction Technology India 2019 conference on 'Global Housing Technology Challenge', in New Delhi. Here, PM Modi declared the 2019-2020 as the Year of construction technology in a bid to increase the use of modern technology in the construction sector.
- ✓ The purpose of the 2-day conference was to identify innovative and globally established technologies that can be used in the Indian context. In the event, developers, academia, technology providers, researchers etc. participated.
- ✓ Those technologies which are identified during the conference will be invited to design and build lighthouse projects of around one thousand housing units each in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

8. Who has been appointed new Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?

- A. Gegong Apang
- B. Suresh Mehta
- C. Bhagwan Lal Sahni**

D. Bhagat Singh Koshyari

- ✓ Bhagwan Lal Sahni, a BJP leader from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, appointed new Chairman of the newly constituted National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ✓ The NCBC was given constitutional status by Parliament in 2018, after repealing the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.
- ✓ The NCBC which previously only could recommend on the issue of inclusion or exclusion of a community in the Central list of OBCs will now have the powers of a civil court as it has been given Constitutional status, on par with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

9. Which Indian cricketer has been appointed as the new Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee?**A. Rahul Dravid****B. Anil Kumble****C. Saurav Ganguly****D. VVS Laxman**

- ✓ Anil Kumble, a former Indian captain of Tests and ODIs, has been reappointed as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Committee for the third consecutive time. This 3-year stint will end in 2021 and be his final term as the Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee.
- ✓ He was appointed as the head of the panel in the year 2012 for his first term. Kumble was reappointed for his second term in the year 2016 which would keep him in office till 2018.
- ✓ The ICC Cricket Committee is representative of all stakeholders in the game, including players and umpires. It is empowered to make recommendations on cricket playing issues.

10. Which state disaster management authority has been honoured with the coveted SKOCH award 2018?**A. Andhra Pradesh****B. West Bengal****C. Tamil Nadu****D. Odisha**

- ✓ The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has been honoured with the coveted SKOCH award for 2018 for its remarkable achievements in the field of disaster management at the 56th SKOTCH Summit at New Delhi on February 25, 2019.
- ✓ The Skoch award covers the best efforts in the areas of finance, governance, banking, disaster management, technology, economics and inclusive growth.
- ✓ The OSDMA received an Order-of-merit in the Gold category for constructing 879 multipurpose cyclone and flood shelters that played a key role in saving human lives during Cyclone Phailin in 2013.
- ✓ It also bagged an 'Order-of-merit' in the silver category for constructing disaster resilient houses for about 17,000 Phailin affected families by relocating them to safer places.
- ✓ The 'Order-of-merit' Bronze was given to the OSDMA for its Early Warning Dissemination System for different hydro-meteorological disasters across the coastline of Odisha which will benefit 1,205 villages in 22 blocks of six coastal districts.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Vastral, from where PM launched 'Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana' is located in which state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Gujarat**
- C. Odisha
- D. Maharashtra

- ✓ On March 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana at Vastral in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The national pension scheme for workers and labourers of unorganised sector was announced in the interim Budget 2019. It will provide monthly pension of Rs. 3000 to the employees of unorganised sector after 60 years of age. The scheme will benefit 10 crore workers in unorganised sector.

2. The terms NCMC, AFC and SWEEKAR, which were making news recently, are related to which of the following?

- A. Insurance
- B. Health care
- C. Mobility**
- D. Pension

- ✓ On 4th March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, which will function on the "One Nation One Card" model across the country.
- ✓ The NCMC is the India's first indigenously developed payment platform for transport that can be used to make payments across public transport anywhere in the country, including Metro, bus and suburban railways, for toll and parking, and for retail like any credit or debit card.
- ✓ The stored value on card supports offline transaction across all travel needs with minimal financial risk to involved stakeholders. The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications e.g. monthly passes, season tickets etc.

- ✓ The card will address the challenges associated with the cash payment e.g. cash handling, revenue leakages, cash reconciliation etc. Beside this, PM Modi also launched an Automatic Fare-Collection system (AFC) called 'SWEEKAR', and a gate and card-reader system called 'SWAGAT'.
- ✓ The three together will enable the use of the national mobility card across the country without a conflict with existing Point-of-Sale (PoS) machines. The cards can be issued by all public and private banks the same way credit, debit, and prepaid cards are issued.

3. BOLD-QIT project, sometimes seen in news, has launched on which of the following borders of India?

- A. China
- B. Nepal
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh**

- ✓ On 5th March, the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QIT Interception Technique) on India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri District of Assam.
- ✓ The project is a part of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which many countries including Israel have adopted to ensure proper border management. Hence, the implementation of the BOLD-QIT project will not only help Border Security Force (BSF) to curb all types of cross border crimes but also provide respite to the troops from round the clock human surveillance.
- ✓ Now, the entire span of River Brahmaputra has been covered with data network generated by Microwave communication, OFC Cables, DMR Communication, day and night surveillance Cameras and intrusion detection system.
- ✓ These modern gadgets provide feeds to BSF Control Rooms on the Border and enable BSF Quick Reaction Teams to thwart any possibility of Illegal Cross Border Crossing/ Crimes. The BSF is responsible for

safeguarding of over 4,000km long International Border with Bangladesh.

4. Which state government has recently banned molasses in the state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Assam
- C. Manipur
- D. Tripura

- ✓ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has recently ordered a ban on molasses in the state in the aftermath of the hooch tragedy in two districts - Golaghat and Jorhat - which claimed 158 lives.
- ✓ Molasses is an important component in making "sulai", an intoxicating drink widely consumed in the tea garden areas of Assam.

5. Who is the recipient of the first-ever Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar?

- A. Narendra Patni
- B. Abhinandan Varthaman
- C. Mangal Prabhat Lodha
- D. Bhavarlal Hiralal Jain

- ✓ Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be honoured with the first-ever 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar', which is instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti.
- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2.51 lakh, a memento and a citation and will be presented to Varthaman on 17th April 2019, coinciding with Mahavir Jayanti.
- ✓ In the ongoing India-Pakistan standoff, Varthaman was held for three days under captivity in Pakistan after his Mig-21 Bison aircraft was shot down in an aerial dogfight.
- ✓ He shot down a Pakistani Air Force F-16 before he was forced to eject and landed across the Line of Control (LoC). He was captured by Pakistan forces soon after and was released on March 1.

6. Which Indian organisation has launched a 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' for school children?

- A. ISRO
- B. CSIR
- C. DRDO
- D. BARC

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched "Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (or Young Scientist Programme) for school children to be studying in the 9th standard.
- ✓ ISRO scientists will impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the children to arouse their interest in emerging areas of Space activities.
- ✓ ISRO will conduct "Catch them young" residential training programme of around two weeks duration during summer holidays for these children.
- ✓ For this initiative, three students from each State and Union Territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus will be selected. The selection is based on the academic performance and extracurricular activities. Students from the rural area have been given special weightage in the selection criteria.

7. Which Indian scientist has been conferred the Missile Systems Award 2019?

- A. G Satheesh Reddy
- B. Kailasavadivoo Sivan
- C. Punit Goenka
- D. S Somanath

- ✓ India's aerospace scientist and Chief of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), Dr. G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the Missile Systems Award 2019 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).
- ✓ Satheesh is the first Indian to win the award, which recognises his leadership role in the Indian missile programme. He will share the prize with Rondell J. Wilson, a former Principal Engineering Fellow of Raytheon Missile Systems.
- ✓ Dr. Reddy, who is Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister, is considered the architect of advanced

missile technologies and smart guided weapons technologies in India.

- ✓ As Project Director, he led the design and development of the India's first 1,000 kg class guided bomb which has enhanced precision strike capabilities. AIAA is the world's largest and reputed aerospace technical society.

8. Which of the following sports has been included in 2022 Asian Games?

A. Cricket

B. Paragliding

C. Pencak Silat

D. Roller sports

- ✓ The General Assembly of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has decided to include cricket in the sports programme in the 2022 edition of the Asian Games, which is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China.
- ✓ The last time cricket featured in the Asian Games was in the 2010 and 2014 edition but Team India opted out of the event on both the occasions citing hectic schedule. The 2010 and 2014 editions saw cricket being played in the twenty-20 format and that is likely to continue during the 2022 Asian Games in China.

9. What is the theme of the World Wildlife Day (WWD-2019)?

A. Listen to the young voices

B. Life Below Water: For people and planet

C. Big cats: predators under threat

D. The future of wildlife is in our hands

- ✓ The World Wildlife Day (WWD) is observed every year on 3rd of March to celebrate the many beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna & flora and to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits that conservation provides to people.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Life Below Water: For people and planet" aims to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

10. Where is the headquarters of Tea Board of India?

A. Dispur

B. Agartala

C. Guwahati

D. Kolkata

- ✓ The Tea Board of India is a state agency of the Government of India (GoI) established to promote the cultivation, processing, and domestic trade as well as export of tea from India. It was established by the enactment of the Tea Act in 1953 with its headquarters in Kolkata.
- ✓ The Tea Board India is responsible for the assignment of certification numbers to exports of certain tea merchants. Recently, it is in news because the Union Ministry of Commerce has reappointed P K Bezbaruah as the chairman of Tea Board for a period of three years. Bezbaruah, the owner of Bokahola Tea Company in Assam, was earlier appointed as chairman of Tea Board as its first non-IAS officer.
- ✓ He was also instrumental in initiating a revamp of the old electronic auctioning system.

Winmeen Current Affairs

1. Which state government has launched Notun Disha initiative to provide training to teachers?

A. Nagaland

B. Tripura

C. Arunachal Pradesh

D. Mizoram

- ✓ The Tripura government has launched a one-month project - Notun Disha (new direction) to provide training to school teachers. In it, the state government has decided to distribute laptops to 800 school teachers to assess the level of students' development in different disciplines.
- ✓ Here, 800 teachers would be selected for the training, and selected NGOs, societies or educational institutions would provide them training. In February 2019, the state government held a survey to assess the educational status of students between third and eighth standard in government schools.
- ✓ The survey report has revealed that 60% of students (equal to 51,599) in the fifth standard cannot read Bengali language textbook from the second standard. Apart from this, as per the survey, 46% of the surveyed students cannot do subtraction and 81% students do not know how to solve division problems. Hence, the aim of the Notun Disha is to make the students efficient and capable in all subjects from the 3rd to 8th standard.

2. Hailakandi district, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following states?

A. Himachal Pradesh

B. Jharkhand

C. Assam

D. Odisha

- ✓ The government policy think tank, Niti Aayog has recently released Delta ranking report. In it, the Hailakandi district of Assam has been ranked first among the 112 aspirational districts of India, followed by Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh.

- ✓ Hailakandi has made a giant leap from 52nd position to no. 1 position on the basis of its performance during November-December 2018 and January 2019. For securing the first rank as an aspirational district, Hailakandi will be given an allocation of Rs. 10 crore.

3. Which city has been adjudged cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan 2019?

A. Indore

B. Mysore

C. Raipur

D. Ahmedabad

- ✓ Indore has been adjudged India's cleanest city for the 3rd straight year in the central government's cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan 2019'.
- ✓ The second and third positions in the category were grabbed by Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh and Mysore in Karnataka. The Swachh Survekshan awards 2019 were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in New Delhi.
- ✓ Top ranked cities received a statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi as award for their work towards cleanliness. Every year, cities and towns across India are awarded with the title of 'Swachh Cities' on the basis of their cleanliness and sanitation drive as a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that was launched in 2014.
- ✓ Three cities Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh bagged top awards. It was hat trick for Bhopal too. Bhopal was adjudged the cleanest capital city in the 2019 survey. Ujjain was awarded Cleanest Medium city in 3 lakh to one million category.
- ✓ While the New Delhi Municipal Council area was given the 'Cleanest Small City' award, Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged the 'Best Ganga Town' in the central government survey. The 'Cleanest Big City' award has been bagged by Ahmedabad, while Raipur is the 'Fastest Moving Big City'.

4. Beresheet spacecraft, which is in news recently, is from which country?

- A. United States
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Israel**

- ✓ The Israeli spacecraft "Beresheet" on its first-ever moon mission has recently sent its first selfie back to Earth. The image showing part of the Beresheet spacecraft with Earth in the background was beamed to mission control in Yehud, Israel -- 37,600 km away.
- ✓ Earlier, on 22nd February 2019, the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and NGO SpaceIL launched the unmanned spacecraft Beresheet from Cape Canaveral in Florida on 22nd February 2019.
- ✓ The 585-kg Beresheet (Genesis) spacecraft took off on a Falcon 9 rocket from the private US-based SpaceX company of entrepreneur Elon Musk. It is the Israel's first-ever moon mission that will measure the lunar magnetic field to help understanding of the moon's formation.
- ✓ So far, only Russia, the US and China have made the 239,000 mile (384,000km) journey and landed on the moon. For Israel, the landing itself is the main mission, but the spacecraft also carries a scientific instrument to measure the lunar magnetic field, which will help understanding of the moon's formation.
- ✓ It also carries a time capsule loaded with digital files containing a Bible, children's drawings, Israeli songs, the recollections of a Holocaust survivor and the Israeli flag.

5. Which international organization has signed \$250 million loan pact for NRETP to boost rural incomes in India?

- A. World Bank**
- B. AIIB
- C. ADB
- D. IMF

- ✓ On 4th March 2019, the World Bank (WB) and the Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$250 million loan agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) to boost Rural Incomes across 13 States in India.
- ✓ The loan will help women in rural households develop viable enterprises for farm and non-farm products. The \$250-million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a 5-year grace period, and a final maturity of 20 years.
- ✓ The key focus of the NRETP will be to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across value chains; to enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and to generate employment.
- ✓ The NRETP is an additional financing to the \$500-million National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) approved by the World Bank in July 2011.
- ✓ The NRLP, which is currently being implemented across 13 states, 162 districts and 575 blocks, has so far mobilised more than 8.8 million women from poor rural households into 7.5 lakh Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

6. 'Azaadi ke Diwane Museum' has recently inaugurated in which of the following cities?

- A. Pune
- B. New Delhi**
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Varanasi
- ✓ Union Minister Dr. Mahesh Sharma has recently inaugurated 'Azaadi Ke Diwane' museum at the Red Fort premises in New Delhi. The museum is dedicated to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom struggle and is built by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ✓ It is a modern, state-of-the-art, informative and educational exhibition involving multi-sensory technology to engage the visitors. The 'Azaadi Ke Diwane' is the 5th in a series of recently

inaugurated ones — the others being the Subhash Chandra Bose and INA museum, the Yaad-e-Jallian museum, the Museum on 1857 (on the India's first war of Independence) and the Drishyakala (a museum on Indian Art) — on the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters.

7. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who has been re-elected as the new President of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), is from which country?

- A. Kyrgyzstan
- B. Lebanon
- C. East Timor
- D. Kuwait

- ✓ Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, a Kuwaiti politician and sports administrator, has been re-elected president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for an 8th term despite being embroiled in a forgery case brought by Swiss investigators.
- ✓ Sheikh Ahmad is considered a major powerbroker in world sport & won a new five-year term until 2024. The OCA is a governing body of sports in Asia, currently with 45 member National Olympic Committees. The headquarters of the OCA is located at Kuwait City.

8. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has launched how many GPS stations across country?

- A. 24
- B. 35
- C. 22
- D. 19

- ✓ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has launched 22 permanent Global Positioning System (GPS) stations across India to identify seismically hazardous zones and encourage mapping activities.
- ✓ The 22 GPS-Geodetic (pertaining to Geodesy, the science of earth measurement) observatories are located in Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Pune, Dehradun, Chennai, Jabalpur, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar, Vishakhapatnam, Agartala, Itanagar, Mangal, Jammu, Lucknow, Nagpur, Shillong and Little Andaman.

Jammu, Lucknow, Nagpur, Shillong and Little Andaman.

- ✓ These stations are meant to delineate high strain zones for earthquake probability, determine a seismic motion on faults that may lead to a rupture and produce thematic maps with high positional accuracy.
- ✓ The new 13 stations will be located in Aizawl, Faridabad, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Cooch Behar, Zavar, North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman, Ranchi, Mangalore, Imphal and Chitradurga.

9. Who has been appointed as the new DG of the National Archives of India (NAI)?

- A. P V Ramesh
- B. Girraj Prakash
- C. Prithvi Kumar
- D. Mahesh Sharma

- ✓ P Venkata Ramesh Babu, a 1985 batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the director-general of the National Archives of India (NAI). Prior to this post, he was CMD of Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- ✓ The NAI is a repository of the non-current records of the Government of India (GoI) and holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars. It functions as an Attached Office of the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Culture.

10. Which of the following countries has signed a 'New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019'?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Bhutan
- C. Indonesia
- D. All of the above

- ✓ 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' has recently signed by the five rhino range nations – India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia - for the conservation and protection of the species at the recently held 2nd Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting in New Delhi.

- ✓ The declaration was signed to conserve and review the population of the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos every four years to reassess the need for joint actions to secure their future.
- ✓ The declaration includes undertaking studies on health issues of the rhinos, their potential diseases and taking necessary steps; collaborating and strengthening wildlife forensics for the purpose of investigation and strengthening of transboundary collaboration among India, Nepal and Bhutan for the conservation and protection of the Greater one-horned rhino.
- ✓ The meet was organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in collaboration with IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, WWF- India and Aaranyak.